



The IGUANA



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AFFFOR gets new commander

By Tech. Sgt. G.A. Volb
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs

A crowd of dignitaries and representatives of the Joint Task Force community looked on, May 17 at the base fire department, as Air Forces command for the task force changed hands.

In the ceremony, Lt. Col. William Lane gave way to his successor Lt. Col. Tom Dean, who arrives from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., where he was operations officer for the 358th Fighter Squadron.

"My tour here at JTF-Bravo has been extremely rewarding and it has been an honor and privilege for me to serve as the Air Force Forces commander," said Lane, as he looked back on his tour here. "Together we have seen many changes at Soto Cano Air Base this

past year and ... made this a better place to live and work."

Dean, like Lane, will be dual-hatted as he takes command of, not only the Air Force forces here, but also the 612th Air Base Squadron.

Lane, a master navigator with more than 3,500 flying hours in C-130E Hercules, AC-130H Spectre Gunships and various other aircraft, is taking on an assignment in Afghanistan as mission commander for an AC-130 gunship aircraft deployment. Then it's on to becoming chief of Air Force Special Operations Command Acquisitions.

In addressing the men and women of the Air Force forces here, Lane said "I have witnessed first hand your dedication to duty and your desire to be the very best. Your performance has been truly outstanding this past year and nothing short or miraculous."

He cited the many new records in performance, in-

cluding vehicle in-commission rates and equipment up-times. "You have proven you are one of the best Air Base Squadrons in the Air Force," he said, adding, "and in my view, you have earned the title of 'the best.'"

Dean arrives looking forward to working with the task force team. "We have an important mission here and I pledge to you all, my loyalty and support in accomplishing the mission and that of Southern Command Air Forces.

"This is a beautiful country with a proud culture and people," he continued. "I pray we can make Soto Cano an even better place to live and work."

Dean holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts Degree in Business from Webster University. He's also a senior pilot with over 3,000 flying hours in A/OA-10 Warthog, F-111 A/E Aardvark and numerous other aircraft, plus 143 hours of combat time.

Russia joins NATO

From the Associated Press

ROME — NATO, the alliance set up more than a half century ago for the Cold War containment of Moscow, formally accepted its old enemy as a junior partner Tuesday

"We have come a long way from confrontation to dialogue, and from confrontation to cooperation," Russian President Vladimir Putin said before he and 19 NATO leaders, including President Bush, signed an agreement creating a NATO-Russia Council.

"Two former foes are now joined as partners," Bush said.

Under the new arrangement, Russia will have more authority than in an earlier, less formal arrangement set up three years ago to try to nudge Moscow closer to the West.

Even so, its involvement will be limited to certain areas. They include crisis management, peacekeeping and such military areas as air defense, search-and-rescue operations and joint exercises.

The 20 leaders sat at a circular table and remained seated as the documents were passed around for them to sign.

"The significance of this meeting is difficult to overestimate," Putin said earlier, noting that a few years ago, such a role for Russia "would have been, simply, unthinkable, whereas today it has become a reality."

"Being realists, we must remember that relations between Russia and the North Atlantic alliance have been historically far from straightforward," Putin said. Even though Russia was not admitted as a full partner and

has a limited role, "we must understand this Rome Declaration ... is only a beginning," he said.

Afterward, Secretary of State Colin Powell said he recognizes that Russia opposes a further enlargement of NATO. The alliance is expected to bring in up to seven new full partners in November, including states bordering on Russia.

Even with the new relationship, "Russia cannot have a veto over who becomes a member or not," Powell told reporters.

Leader after leader cited Sept. 11, and the lingering terror threat, as a catalyst for new cohesion and determination among NATO members. "The months since have made clear that by working together against these threats, we multiply our effectiveness," Bush said.

Putin agreed, and mentioned a blast during a holiday parade in the Russian region of Dagestan on May 9, killing 41 people. Russia blames Islamic extremists for the attack.

Later, at lunch, the leaders talked about the India-Pakistan crisis, participants said. "We have to make a great effort to amicably pressure (India and Pakistan) to avoid the worst," French President Jacques Chirac told reporters.

Tensions between the two nuclear-armed rivals have been building. Pakistan on Tuesday conducted its third test firing of a missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads into Indian territory, while India denounced policies of Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf as "dangerous."

NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson,

See RUSSIA, Page 5

Slugging it out



Photo by Spc. M. William Petersen

Spc. Jason Keats goes to a knee during the Iron Iguana's brutal championship match for the Iguana Bash pugil stick competition May 23. Capt. Christopher Kuzio had the upper hand at times, but Keats came back to claim the championship title.

Commanders Corner

A word from the Queen Iguana...

By Maj. Shannon Averill

Director, J-1

I thought about discussing the lack of personal responsibility and pride in JTF-Bravo and its appearance because I saw people walking by trash on the ground. I think that everyone from the person right out of basic training to O-6 should take just as much personal pride and interest in their surroundings as they do their personal appearance. If there's trash on the ground and you see it, don't ignore it or pretend you didn't see it, don't walk by just bend down and pick it up. But I figured instead of "Queen Iguana", I'd just be called the "Garbage Lady", and who wants that title?

What I finally decided to talk about was unit cohesiveness and teamwork. IRON IGUANA showed me that all of Joint Task Force-Bravo can and do work together for a common goal, if poked, prodded, and pushed enough.

When I got here I was psyched to be in an operational unit, couldn't wait to jump back into the fray and be part of a team again. What I found was that troops didn't really consider the JTF a unit, there wasn't really one team. Each service member belonged and cleaved to their respective squads, MEDEL, ARFOR, AFFOR, 1-228th, which isn't a bad thing because unity at every level is important to the organization. What I didn't see was unity or a sense of belonging to the JTF.

There was a JTF spark that night with Army versus Air Force SNCO and officer softball game. There was positive rivalry, good-natured ribbing, fun, and camaraderie — all necessary ingredients to teambuilding.



And by the way, AF wants a rematch! Rivalry and competition between services is a good thing so long as we can become one to fight the common enemy. That's the piece I thought was missing from Soto Cano, being able to become one united team.

That was until IRON IGUANA came along and proved me wrong.

We were given the task to conduct a sports competi-

tion that could be enjoyed by everyone in the JTF. Any event involving more than one moving part takes extreme amounts of creativity, planning, coordination, and fine-tuned execution. What I didn't realize was how much of an effort it would take to get all the parts moving in the same direction. Everyone was involved with their unit doings and daily workloads and no one had the time or inclination to concentrate efforts on a JTF function. "Let someone else worry about that" was the attitude going in. All that changed midway through the planning process.

People assigned the additional duty of the IRON IGUANA committee started to take a personal interest in the events, in development of the rules, in the t-shirt design. They started to see IRON IGUANA as not just another issue on their plates to work, but something that we could create and market as a "world-class" event. We could make IRON IGUANA something to be proud of and could actually see the results of our work. As the event drew nearer and things started coming together, people were actually signing up for the triathlon claiming they'd win. It seemed that the committee's enthusiasm had spread to the public. There was an expectation that IRON IGUANA would be an event to remember. The most amazing and rewarding part of it all was that the committee of individuals and MSC reps continually worked as one to create an unforgettable event.

When 23 May finally arrived, IRON IGUANA executed flawlessly and grew into something that went beyond a sporting event to mean something a bit more. On that day it didn't matter what your branch of service was or what MSC you belonged to, we were all united as one task force team.

The Chaplain's Corner

Emergency Checklists

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary A. Pendrak

JTF-Bravo Chaplain

One thing that has always confused me (and there are many,) is emergency checklists. Pilots have to memorize those things. There is a whole long list of things that have to be done for any specific emergency. And pilots have to memorize each action to be taken, in order, for each emergency. Why? I mean, at first it seems obvious: "You see, Chaplain, if there is an emergency, the pilot has to do all those things in order, OR WE'LL ALL DIE!!! DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW???" Well, yes, but if the pilot has memorized the whole thing, why does he always pull out the emergency checklist sheet?

I guess it really makes sense. You memorize to be familiar with what needs to be done. You follow the sheet to make SURE that you do everything and do it in the right order.

Of course, there is one instructor pilot I know of who says the first thing you should do for an in-flight emergency is "wind your watch". Basically, he says that you shouldn't do anything *too* fast. Take time to figure out what is going on before you react to it. Of course, he deals with civilian pilots who don't have strangers on the ground shooting at him.

So, why my concern about emergency check-

lists? I know that you're not all pilots out there, but we all have a chance to run into emergencies. If you fly, you were required to learn certain emergency procedures. Everyone aboard ship had better know how to react to different situations - and "General Quarters" does not refer to the house the general lives in. If you have a car, and you took the time to read through the owners manual, you probably read about how to respond to various things that can go bad with your car.

But what about the things that can go bad in your life? Have you read that owner's manual? I know, some of you are saying, "Yeah, I read parts of it. And, anyway, Chaplain, mine has that handy guide in the front. If I ever have a problem, I can turn to that guide and it will point me to the right Scripture verse. Besides, if ever I have a problem, the first thing I'll do is wind my watch."

Well, folks, I am here to tell you that, a fixed wing pilot who loses power on takeoff doesn't have the time to look for his emergency checklist, much less wind his watch.

I would suggest that each of you spend some time in your owner's manual. Learn about proper care and maintenance of your body, spirit, and soul. Learn some emergency procedures. And be ready for life. And remember, you too can be recalled by your maker.

The IGUANA

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MEDEL works to combat Dengue fever at its source

By Spc. M. William Petersen

Editor

For most people, finding mosquito larva swimming around in the dishwater is hardly something to cheer about.

After dipping the oversized eyedropper into the water and drawing a sample, 1LT Tuesday Blome let out a cry of triumph. Swimming through the water sample that she held up to the light were miniscule larvae, *Aedes aegypti*, to be precise.

Why was this good news to Blome and her colleagues from MEDEL's Preventive Medicine team? They were looking for the little buggers.

MEDEL is working in advance to perform Dengue fever risk assessments with the help of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, the Center for Disease Control, and the local Ministry of Health. The assessments involve setting up mosquito traps on and off-post as well as on-site surveys in Soto Cano's surrounding area.

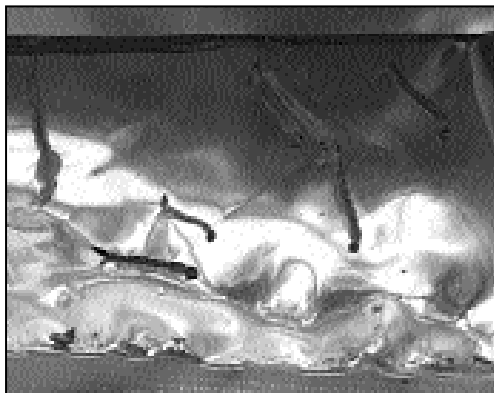
With training from USACHPPM, the Preventive Medicine team has learned where to look, what to look for and what Joint Task Force-Bravo and its Honduran neighbors can do to lower the risk of an outbreak. In household dishwater reservoirs as close as Comayagua, MEDEL found the larvae of *Aedes aegypti* in abundance.

Aedes aegypti is more commonly known as the "Dengue Mosquito," aptly named for its ability to transmit the potentially-lethal illness. The illness it carries, Dengue fever has been found in the Comayagua area as early as the 1980's, but an epidemic occurred in 1995, according to Dr. Ricardo Aviles, Medical Liaison Officer at MEDEL.

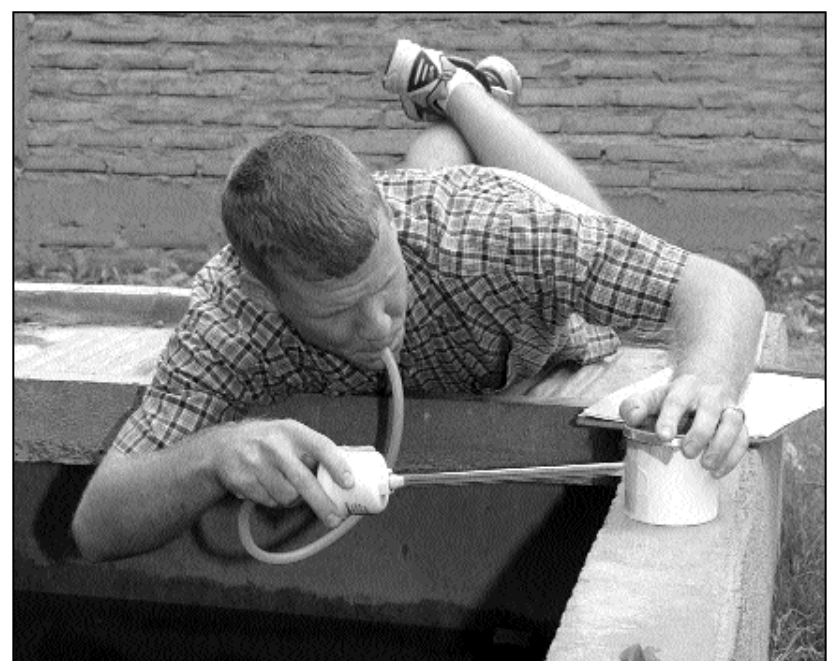
"Common symptoms are fever and body aches. It can resemble many other diseases," said Aviles. "In advanced cases, there can be bleeding from the nose and gums, bruises, and it can kill if it goes untreated."

The mosquitoes and their larvae have never been collected on Soto Cano, but with the season of highest risk approaching in late summer, MEDEL is working well ahead of time. Not only are they collecting samples, but with the Ministry of Health, they're educating the public about the risk of Dengue fever. Drinking-safe water treatments exist that can prevent the mosquitoes from breeding in the small reservoirs.

For the individual, some basic preventive measures include wearing long pants and sleeves, using insect repellent with DEET, and taking the doctor-recommended and MEDEL-provided malaria medication for prevention of other vector-borne diseases.



Aedes aegypti larvae swim in a sample of water taken in Comayagua during MEDEL's Dengue fever risk assessment.



Top: Maj. Van Sherwood, chief of entomological sciences, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, looks into a Comayagua water supply for signs of "yellow fever" mosquitoes.

Above: Spc. Andrew Bundrick captures live adult *aedes aegypti* using breath-power. Luckily for Bundrick, a filter prevents the inhalation of live insects.

Left: 1st Lt. Tuesday Blome collects larvae from a water sample during the MEDEL preventive health team's risk assessment in Comayagua.

DoD plan creates new combatant command

By Jim Garamone

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Just because the changes in the Unified Command Plan will be “transparent” to most service members doesn’t mean they’re not important.

The changes are revolutionary and will better enable the American military to perform its missions around the globe and at home, said Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in April. The president signed the plan April 30, and it will go into effect Oct. 1.

The biggest change is at home. The plan establishes the U.S. Northern Command. The command, to be stood up Oct. 1 also, will be responsible for military support to the defense of the United States. “It will be the homeland defense command for the United States,” said Navy Capt. Doug McClain, a Joint Staff officer who worked on the UCP.

NORTHCOM’s area of operations will include the United States, Canada, Mexico, parts of the Caribbean and the contiguous waters in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans up to 500 miles off the North American coastline.

The command will be a “one-stop-shopping” point for military support in case of an attack on the United States. McClain offered the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics experience as an example of the type of support Northern Command would provide. The lead federal agency at the Olympics was the Secret Service. DoD established Joint Task Force – Olympics to provide military support. All calls for military support – such as combat air patrols, equipment, logistics and security personnel – channeled through the JTF.

Similarly, if the United States were attacked, all requests for military support would channel through Northern Command. President Bush has selected current U.S. Space Command commander Air Force Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart as the new commander in chief, or

“CinC.” The general also commands the North American Aerospace Defense Command – a joint venture with Canada to defend North America. In his new job, Eberhart will command the U.S. element to NORAD as well as Northern Command. He will not retain command of SPACECOM.

The responsibilities now held by Joint Task Force – Civil Support and Joint Task Force – Homeland Security will migrate to Northern Command also, McClain said. These JTFs, now part of U.S. Joint Forces Command, think of the unthinkable. Task force planners work out what military help would be needed in the event of an attack on the United States.

NORTHCOM will work with interagency groups on the federal, state and local level. The command will establish and maintain these links so all parties will be familiar with each other and the capabilities of the various agencies.

Northern Command will be a combatant command just as any other, McClain said. “(The commander of Northern Command) has all the authority that Title 10 (of the U.S. Code) gives to any combatant commander to execute the mission he’s given,” McClain said.

McClain said the NORTHCOM commander is the same as his counterparts at the U.S. Pacific or Central commands. “The difference is, the missions are different,” he said. “But the chain of command is the same as with any other combatant commander. He will take his direction from the president, through the defense secretary with advice and direction from the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.”

Northern Command will be in the same situation as the other combatant commands. It will receive military forces as required.

According to the Unified Command Plan, Joint Forces Command, headquartered in Norfolk, Va., retains its role as the force provider to the combatant Cincs. “One of the things that will occur with the stand-up of Northern Command is that it will allow Joint Forces Command to focus on experimentation and

transformation, which is their meat and potatoes mission,” McClain said.

The JFCOM commander is currently also NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. McClain said that the UCP change will divest the JFCOM commander of responsibilities for Supreme Allied Command, Atlantic. “It is up to NATO to determine a replacement for the current arrangement,” he said.

Another change in the Unified Command Plan adds Russia and the Caucasus nations to the U.S. European Command’s area of responsibility. In the past Russia was under the purview of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “It normalizes the relation that a combatant commander has with a country’s military leadership as if it was any other country in his area of responsibility,” McClain said.

“This does not eliminate the ability of Russia to go directly to the chairman or to the leadership of this country. What it does in the military structure is give Russia the ability to go to a local commander and work agreements that are beneficial to both sides.”

Alaska falls under Northern Command for homeland security purposes, but forces based in the state look to Pacific Command. Also forces on the U.S. West Coast – the Army’s I Corps at Fort Lewis, Wash., the 3rd Fleet in San Diego and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif. – will continue under PACOM.

“Just because the forces assigned to Pacific Command reside outside the area of responsibility doesn’t have anything to do with their assignment or what they are doing,” McClain said. This carries on the practice of forces in the United States being under the Central or Special Operations commands.

The Unified Command Plan also adjusts the borders for U.S. Southern Command.

“The No. 1 requirement was to give U.S. Northern Command enough sea space and airspace around the continental United States so that the command could defend in depth,” McClain said.

Contracting: keeping Soto Cano operating

By Maj. Wil R. Witherspoon

Chief of Contracting

Most military as well as civilian personnel are not accustomed to working directly with a contracting office.

Because of the uniqueness of Joint Task Force-Bravo, it is very likely that everyone here will at some time visit building D-10 to discuss a proposed, ongoing, or past contract action. This article serves as both an instructional and informative primer for that chance visit.

Within the contracting office, there are three Department of Defense Warranted Contracting Officers. These contracting officers are the only ones within the Area of Responsibility with the authority to bind the government in a contract action with non-governmental agencies. The United States Congress grants this authority and the officers are appointed by the U.S. Army South’s Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting. Contracting officers have a dual Chain of Command. They have a statutory obligation to execute contract actions for the PARC and a functional responsibility to support the requirements of the JTF-B Commander.

Our mission here is to provide the best possible contract support for military missions, training and quality of life for JTF-B soldiers, airmen, marines and civilians and all units deployed for operations within the JTF-B Area of Responsibility.

We have a responsibility to provide responsive contract support to all customers, maintain good stewardship of our contract dollars, provide quality goods and services on time and at a reasonable cost, and to ensure sound business judgment is being utilized and that we are in compliance with statutes and regulations.

Our most important function is as advisor to the JTF-B commander on all matters concerning contracting. We also have a responsibility to ensure that in the procurement of all supplies, services, and construction from commercial sources, every effort to streamline the process is exhausted. One way we accomplish this is through

the limited purchase authority delegated to IMPAC cardholders, and designated ordering officers and paying agents. We solicit, evaluate, award and administer all contractual actions including the administration of the Base Operations Support Services contract. We train, appoint, and monitor all IMPAC card holders and billing of officials.

The Contracting Office is only one part of the acquisition team here on Soto Cano. The entire team consists of:

- Activities that identify requirements, whether it’s the Joint Security Forces needing to purchase emergency traffic cones, Morale, Welfare and Recreation purchasing equipment for softball season, or DynCorp purchasing starch for the laundry facility.
- The supply office that initiates the procurement process. This group is responsible for checking for availability from existing government sources, conducting preliminary market research, articulating the requirement in writing, and coordinating with the Property Book Officer to determine the accountability classification.
- The command official who approves the purchase with funds that have been allocated to his or her activity.
- J-8, which annotates the documentation with the appropriate fund cite classification for the purchase and keeps track of all JTFB accounts.
- Contracting who conducts final market research, issues solicitations, obtain quotes and proposals and issues contract awards.
- The Finance Office who ensures that all debts are paid in a timely manner.
- The PBO who ensures that proper accountability measures are assigned.

Each member of the acquisition team serves a vital role in the procurement process. Without any of these elements, a vast chasm would exist in the system of checks and balances.

The role of each member of the acquisition team is simply to exercise personal initiative and sound business judgment in providing the best value product or service to meet the government’s needs.

MWR: Let us show you Honduras

By Robin Gonzalez

MWR Manager

Honduras: we live here, we travel throughout the country, and we have friends and family here, but what do we really know about Honduras?

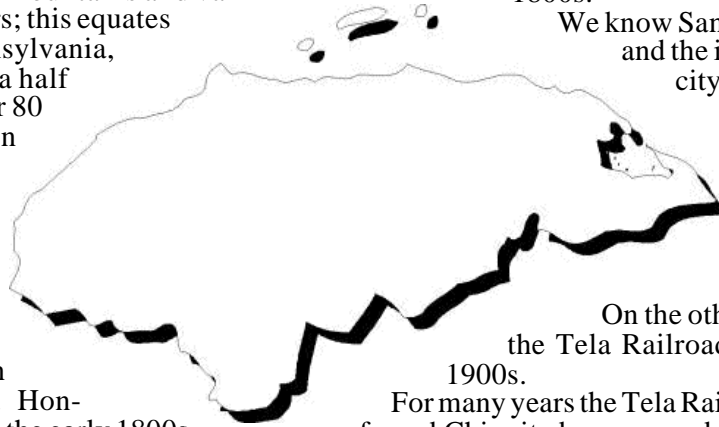
Do you know, for example, that Honduras means "depths"? Easy enough to understand when you realize Honduras is a land of mountains and valleys. Honduras is approximately 112,000 kilometers; this equates to about the same size as Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Kentucky. Honduras would fit three and a half times into California, six times into Texas, and over 80 times into the entire continental United States! On the other hand, Honduras is the second largest country in Central America and the only one without an active volcano.

Most people do not know that the first explorer to sight this land, and name it, was Christopher Columbus. He landed on the eastern most tip of Honduras, Cape Gracias a Dios, in 1502.

From that time, until independence was declared in 1821, Honduras was under the rule of the Spanish. Honduras was also under the control of the British during the early 1800s when they occupied Belize, the Bay Islands, and the Mosquito Coast.

Tegucigalpa can be a tongue twister, which is probably why so many people refer to the city as "Tegus", but are you aware of the origin of the capitol's name?

It derives from the ancient Nahuatl language and translates as "silver mountain" since silver was mined in the area for centuries.



Are you also aware of the fact that Tegucigalpa was not the original capitol? Comayagua was until 1880 when the capitol was relocated to Tegucigalpa. There are a couple of reasons for this change.

The "popular rumor" is the colonial society of Comayagua publicly disliked the wife of President Marco Aurelio Soto, who took revenge by moving the capitol to Tegucigalpa. In reality, politics and power struggles between Tegucigalpa and Comayagua resulted in the relocation of the capitol in the late 1800s.

We know San Pedro Sula as the second largest city in Honduras and the industrial hub of the country, but did you know the city is also one of the oldest Spanish towns?

It was founded in 1536 by the Spanish conqueror Don Pedro De Alvarado and was originally named "Villa de San Pedro De Puerto Caballos".

It quickly became known as San Pedro Sula, with the name deriving from the local dialect Usula meaning "valley of birds".

On the other hand, Tela was just a small Indian village until the Tela Railroad Company began operations there in the early 1900s.

For many years the Tela Railroad Company was the owner and producer of the famed Chiquita bananas and what is today Hotel Villa Telamar resort was the original homes for the company's executives and their families.

These are just some of the lesser-known facts about Honduras... a wonderfully diverse, history-filled country that is ours to discover and enjoy.

Stop by MWR Travel and Tours and let us show you Honduras.

RUSSIA

Continued from Page 1

who will be chairman of the new council, opened the session, declaring "this gathering represents the hope of a better, saner future."

He said he considers the council a real breakthrough and expressed hope that it would "not just deliberate but take decisive actions. ... There is a common enemy out there."

Bush, just days after he and Putin signed an agreement slashing their nuclear arsenals by two-thirds over 10 years, hailed the transformation of Russia from Cold War rival to friend.

"Today marks a historic achievement for a great alliance and a great European nation," Bush said during his turn in sequential speeches by NATO partners.

"Two former foes are now joined as partners, overcoming 50 years of division and a decade of uncertainty," Bush said. "This partnership takes us even closer to a larger goal, a Europe that is whole, free and at peace for the first time in history."

Bush, meeting privately with Robertson beforehand, praised the alliance for recognizing that a united Europe is "more likely to be achieved by welcoming Russia west."

Russia's participation comes as NATO looks forward to expanding further in November and as it ponders its role in an age when Russia is no longer an adversary.

Russia's future involvement will be limited to crisis management, peace-keeping and such military areas as air defense, search-and-rescue operations and joint exercises. NATO and Russia will decide only on those issues on which they can find consensus. More contentious issues will be left off their agenda, and NATO will keep a free hand in setting and implementing policy.

Tuesday's gathering brought Putin and Bush together for the second time in a week. Bush spent three days in Russia last week as part of a four-nation European tour, and signed an agreement with Putin to slash their strategic nuclear arsenals to one-third of the present levels over the next decade.

Bush began the day Tuesday with a visit with Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. After Tuesday's NATO summit, he will go to the Vatican to meet Pope John Paul II before heading home to the United States.

The new council is to replace a consultative body set up in May 1997 to ease Moscow's alarm over NATO's plans to include some of Russia's Soviet-era allies and neighbors.

NATO will meet in November in Prague and likely expand by six or seven Eastern European nations.

NATO last expanded in 1999, when Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined.

Looks good enough to drink...



Photos by Spc. M. William Petersen

Spc. James Woodard from Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element, tests a sample of water from the hose outside the Base Exchange. MEDEL regularly tests the water on post for chemical composition and purity. Samples are gathered from different points around post in order to fully survey the water Soto Cano is drinking, washing and cooking with.

Next CMSAF selected

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper named Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray on May 24 to serve as the 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Murray will assume his new position July 1, following the June 28 retirement of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch. Finch's retirement culminates 28 years of service to the Air Force.

Jumper said the selection process was a difficult one.

"The selection was difficult because the candidates were all so exceptionally qualified," the general said. "The Air Force is fortunate to have someone of Murray's caliber leading our enlisted force during this exciting time in our service's history."

"His valuable experience and proven leadership will play a pivotal role in the Air Force's future," Jumper said. "I look forward to working with him on matters of importance to the enlisted force and their families."

Murray, who joined the Air Force in October 1977, is currently the command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces. His career includes various assignments in aircraft maintenance and as the command chief master sergeant for the 347th Wing at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., as well as U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force, both located at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

The office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps, and represents their interests to the American public and to all levels of government.

The CMSAF serves as a personal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff and secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families.

(Editor's Note: This news story appears courtesy of the Air Force News Service.)



Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray

RIDING TO REMEMBER



Starting at noon on Memorial Day, more than 100,000 motorcyclists from across the country rolled two-by-two out of the Pentagon's north parking lot for more than three hours. They carried the black and white POW/MIA flag alongside Old Glory.

The bikers were back in town for Rolling Thunder, their 15th annual ride from the Pentagon to the Vietnam Wall to remind the nation that American prisoners of war and missing in action remain unaccounted for.

"This is veterans for veterans," said Navy veteran Hugh M. Bremner, of New Jersey. "After 9-11, people are starting to realize the military does mean something and we've got to take care of it."

(Editor's Note: Text and photo by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service.)

"America's Army" game to debut this summer

By Heike Hasenaur

Soldiers Magazine

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Starting in July, kids, as well as adults, will have the opportunity to play a realistic, interactive computer game that will take them on a virtual tour inside the Army.

"America's Army," to be distributed free of charge on the Web at americasarmy.com, will allow players to "experience" everything from the enlistment process at a recruiting station, to jumping out of a C-130 aircraft during an airborne operation and retrieving stolen Stinger missiles from enemy forces, said Lt. Col. George Juntiff, the Army Game Project's operations officer.

The Army's intent is not only to enhance kids' - and adults' - video-game-playing experiences and spark interest in the Army as a potential career, but reintroduce the Army to the population at large, said Paul Boyce, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

The idea for an Army game originated at the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., as a recruiting tool for the assistant secretary of the Army for Reserve Affairs two years ago, said Maj. Christopher Chambers, deputy director of the Army Game Project.

The estimated \$8 million game - developed by computer scientists and master's degree program personnel from the joint services at the Naval Postgraduate School's Modeling Virtual Environments and Simulation institute, MOVES, in Monterey, Calif., - will evolve over five years to cover all the Army's military occupational specialties, said Professor Michael Zyda, MOVES institute director.

The game, which is actually a two-part CD, one called "Soldiers," the other "Army Operations," currently includes 20 combat-arms MOSs, Zyda said.

In the "Army Operations" portion of the game, players can enter any of 20 infantry-squad-related scenarios, said "Operations"-CD producer Professor Michael Capps.

Real-life imagery of weapons, equipment and terrain have been coupled with an emphasis on training, Capps said. "We want players to have a good time, but we want them to know, too, that when a soldier enlists in the Army, he's not simply taken to the top of a tower and told to jump. Training prepares him for whatever job he's expected to do."

In the "Soldiers" CD, players choose one of four existing soldiers as their game piece or create their own soldier, said NPS Professor John Hiles, who designed the "Soldiers" portion of the game.

The pre-selected characters possess both good and not-so-good-character traits, Hiles said.

"Players are given six resources and seven values to choose from as they make decisions that guide the character," Hiles said.

Recently showcased at one of the largest annual expositions for the computer-game industry, the Electronics Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, Calif., "America's Army," was favorably received by representatives from some of the foremost gaming companies in the world, Army officials said.

They estimate one million of the double-CD game will be distributed to a target audience of 13- to 44-year-olds nationwide.

(Editor's note: Heike Hasenaur is a staff writer for Soldier's magazine. For more in-depth coverage, look for her story in Soldiers magazine's August issue.)

BRIEFS

Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement savings and investment plan that allows service members to save a portion of their pre-tax pay in a special retirement account. Service members may sign up to participate in the TSP program during the open season from May 15 - July 31. Current TSP participants may also change their contribution types and amounts. For more information contact the Finance Office at ext. 4282.

Softball Season

Softball season starts May 28. Coaches can sign up their teams at the Recreation Center now. The pre-season meeting will be May 21 at 10:00 a.m. For more info, contact Luis at 4268.

College Courses

The next term of 3-credit college classes will be from June 3 - July 26 6-9 p.m. Go to the Education Center and give your education records, transcripts and other documentation to Sandra Guille for 75 percent government-paid tuition assistance. Take your tuition assistance form to UMUC, Bldg H-70. You or your G.I. Bill can pay (or charge) the remaining 25 percent to Luis Ortiz. Registration starts May 1. The Education Center is open from 7:30-11:30 and noon - 4 p.m.

New car sales

Exchange New Car Sales is currently available for soldiers wishing to purchase a privately owned vehicle, including motorcycles, while stationed at Soto Cano Air Base. The sales office is located near the Base Exchange and Joint Security Forces building, and is open Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, callex. 4886 or 4883.

"All users" e-mails

By order of the commander, any non-critical information that needs to be passed to the entire JTF-Bravo populace shall be done via the public affairs office. Information may be sent to the PAO e-mail distribution group. Public affairs and the Power Lizard are members of this e-mail group. From these offices, the information can be posted in The Iguana, on the Commander's Channel or E-News, sent via ALL e-mail, and/or broadcast on the Power Lizard, according to the point of contact's request. Users will not send non-critical information using all of the e-mail groups (AFFOR, ARFOR, JSF, etc.). Time-sensitive information will be sent only by the command group, PAO or J6. Questions may be directed to the J-6 office at ext. 4167 or the PAO at ext. 4150.

Pentagon rolls out latest prototype of Objective Force equipment

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – DoD engineers are developing the 2010-era Objective Force Warrior even before the next-generation Land Warrior is fielded in 2004.

Project managers from the Natick Soldier Center in Natick, Mass., rolled out a prototype Objective Force Warrior for the Pentagon press corps today.

Project Engineer Dutch Degay called the prototype the "latest and greatest" individual soldier system. He explained the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki tasked the Natick lab to "completely rebuild the (combat) soldier as we know him."

Historically, researchers have devised upgrades to current equipment. The Objective Force Warrior program tossed out the current system of individual equipment in its entirety and designed a new "integrated, holistic" system from the skin out, Degay said.

He explained that the Land Warrior system adds many new capabilities to the current system of field gear through an electronic component soldiers will carry.

The Objective Force Warrior system, scheduled for fielding in 2008, completely integrates these electronic capabilities. Degay explained that soldiers will never again have to wear cumbersome night-vision or infrared goggles or heavy laser training components on their helmets. These and other features – thermal sensors, day- night video cameras, and chemical and biological sensors – are fully integrated within the helmet. It also includes a visor that can act as a "heads-up display monitor" equivalent to two 17-inch computer monitors in front of the soldier's eyes.

The uniform system is a multi-function garment working from the inside out, Degay said. It incorporates physiological sensors that allow the soldier, the chain of command and nearby medics to monitor the soldier's blood pressure, heart rate, internal and external body temperature, and caloric consumption rate. Commanders and medics can access the information

through a tactical local area network.

Heat and cold injuries are responsible for a large percentage of casualties in both battle and training, Degay said. But if a medic can monitor a soldier's vital signs, many of these types of injuries can be prevented.

If a soldier is injured, medics can

overall weight carried by individual soldiers. Soldiers on combat patrols in Afghanistan today typically carry 92 to 105 pounds of mission-essential equipment, Degay said.

The requirement for the Objective Force Warrior system is to weigh no more than 45 to 50 pounds. Many of the system's built-in functions do away with the need to carry extra equipment. The climate-control feature eliminates the need to carry extra clothing. The outer garment has some biological and chemical protection capabilities, reducing the need to carry extra protective gear.

"What we are trying to do at the very fabric uniform level is consolidate all those systems into one so we lessen the overall bulk and weight" carried by soldiers, Degay said.

Anything else that's mission-essential but not built in to the individual soldier system will be carried on a "robotic mule." Each squad will have one of the small, remote-controlled wheeled vehicles that can perform a multitude of functions for the soldiers.

"(The mule) will assist with not only taking some of the load carriage off the individual soldier, but he also provides a host of other functions," he said. "Primarily water generation (and) water purification. He's a recharging battery station for all the individual Objective Force Warriors in the squad. He acts as a weapons platform. He has day and night thermal, infrared and forward-looking imaging systems inside the nose of the mule, as well as chemical-biological sensors."

The mule can also communicate with unmanned aerial vehicles to give a true 360-degree image of the battlefield.

"It's a follower, and it can be manipulated and brought forth by any member of the squad," he said. "It's essentially a mini load-carriage system that's there for them all the time, which allows us to lighten the load for the individual soldier, but he has resupply available at a moment's notice."

Degay said that in the past, such foresight and interchangeability has only gone into major weapons and vehicle platforms.

"Historically we have spent millions of dollars on platforms," he said. But, "the soldier is the centerpiece of our Army, and we are finally making that investment for (the soldier) individually."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem

A mannequin displays the components of the prototype Objective Force Warrior system.

start making an assessment before they even get to an injured soldier. "And that saves time on the battlefield," Degay said.

The Warrior system has a built-in "microclimate conditioning system." Degay explained the private climate-control system has a "spacer fabric" that's a little bit thicker than a regular cotton T-shirt. The garment has "capillaries" that blow hot or cold air through the system.

The system is powered by fuel cells, which Degay described as "cell phone batteries on steroids."

A primary concern in designing the Objective Force Warrior system is

IRON IGUANA

By **Spc. M. William Petersen**
Editor

Members of Joint Task-Force Bravo and the Honduran air force ran, swam, rode, splashed, batted and bashed May 23. The heated competition, cheering audience and crowds of colleagues and friends could only mean one thing:

The much-anticipated Iron Iguana was in full swing.

Roughly 180 competitors and 60 volunteers took part in or supported the seven events: the triathlon, 10K run, basketball, softball, homerun derby, crazy-dive competition and the main event, the Baddest Lizard Bash pugil stick competition.

While not every event went without a hitch (triathletes were misdirected on four different routes, resulting in multiple winners according to Maj. Shannon "Quenn Iguana" Averill, event coordinator,) the sound of the crowd at the end of the night was testament enough to the success of the Iron Iguana.

WINNERS

10K

Men: Capt. Hanson, J4, time: 39.35

Women: Lt. Cobbs, 1-228, time: 45.29

Triathlon

Men: Tech. Sgt. Delgado, JSF, time 50:46

Women: Maj. Averill, J1, time: 1:22:52

Team: Crews' Cronies (Maj. Matos, Capt. Brinker, Lt. Burchfield), ARFOR, time: 55:48

Team: The Narcs (Maj. Johnston, Maj. Katz, Capt. Sullinger), J3, time: 57:09

Team: Psycho Phantoms (Capt. Stanfield, Lt. Cisneros, Sgt. Gutierrez), 1-228, time: 59:33

Team: Devil's Den (Maj. Lee, Capt. Haines, Lt. Way), MEDEL, time: 55:05

3-ON-3 Basketball

Rim Busters (Sgt. Cadavid, Sr. A. Watson, Spc. McCreary)

One-Pitch Softball

AFFOR

Homerun Derby

Staff Sgt. Abbot, AFFOR

Crazy Lizard Dive

Staff Sgt. Jon Gran, MEDEL

Baddest Lizard Bash

Men: Jason "Killer" Keats, 1-228

Women: "Queen Iguana," J1



Photo by Martin Chahin



Photos by Spc. M. William Petersen



Photo by Martin Chahin



Photo by Sgt. Robert Hutchinson

Top: Staff Sgt. Jon Gran defies gravity during the Crazy Lizard Dive. Inset: The judges were hard to please.

Above: A runner finishes first during the triathlon.

Center: A competitor rides the perimeter during the bicycle portion of the triathlon.

Left: "The Water Girl" delivers a hit to "The Spark Chaser" during a pugil stick challenge match.